

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00016 031418Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031436Z 055699 /41

R 031302Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2184
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, US
SUBJ: USG/GOS RELATIONS

REF: 76 KHARTOUM 3853

1. WE DO NOT KNOW CONTEXT OF SECOND-HAND NIMERI REMARK MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTTEL, BUT IF HIS EFFORTS IN ERITREA ARE "BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT", THIS IS NOT YET APPARENT FROM HERE. EPMG GIVES NO SIGN WHATSOEVER OF BEING WILLING TO TALK ABOUT AN "INDEPENDENT STATUS" FOR ERITREA, AND WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT NEAR FUTURE WILL BRING ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE.

2. WE NOTE WITH SOME INTEREST REFERENCE TO CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN RELATION TO ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. IF NIMEIRI HAS IDENTIFIED ANY SUCH ELEMENTS AMONG ERITREAN INSURGENTS OR ELSEWHERE, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THEM. ONE PARADOX IN CONTEMPORARY ETHIOPIA IS THAT PROPAGANDA OF SOME OF MAJOR DISSIDENTS, E.G., ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY
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PARTY (EPRP) AND AT LEAST PLF, HAS SAME STRIDENT RING OF MARXIST-LENINISM AS EPMG'S OWN LINE, IF NOT MORE SO. ELF MAY BE LESS RADICAL THAN PLF, BUT WE WOULD NOT RATE THEM AS "CONSERVATIVES" (ASMARA MAY WISH COMMENT). THAT NIMEIRI MIGHT SEEK A CONSERVATIVE BUFFER BETWEEN RED SEA AND ETHIOPIAN HINTERLAND IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ONE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS WHERE TO FIND THE PLAYERS AND,

HAVING ONCE FOUND THEM, TO THEN ENSURE THAT THEY CONTROL
ERITREA WITH BACKING OF BOTH INSURGENT GROUPS. SINCE
INSURGENTS THEMSELVES HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO UNIFY,
THIS LIKELY BE TALL ORDER UNLESS PERHAPS NIMEIRI WERE
WILLING TO SUPPORT INSURGENTS MORE STRONGLY THAN WE
THINK HE DOES NOW AND MAKE UNIFICATION OF ERITREAN GROUPS
ON HIS TERMS A PRECONDITION FOR HIS SUPPORT. SECOND
PROBLEM IS HOW TO INDUCE EPMG GIVE UP IN ERITREA, AND
THIRD PRESUMABLY WOULD BE HOW TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS
WITHOUT AN OPEN BREAK WITH EPMG AND/OR STIMULATING EPMG
COUNTER-ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN SUDAN.
TIENKEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PROVINCE, INDEPENDENCE, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS00016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770001-1244
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770186/aaaacxia.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58e7e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 3853
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3675469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG/GOS RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58e7e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009